

Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department

Annual Report-2019

March 17, 2020

Honorable Dodge County Board of Supervisors
Juneau, WI 53039

Dear Members:

The Dodge County Land Resources and Parks (LRP) Department respectfully submits its 14th Annual Report since the May 2, 2006 consolidation of the Planning, Development and Parks Department, the Land Information Department and the Real Estate Description Division of the Register of Deeds Office

The LRP Department, operating under the direction of the Land Resources and Parks Committee (LRP), extends special thanks to the members of this committee for their interest in, support of, and commitment to the Department's mission and activities.

Planning, Development and Parks Committee:

Tom Schaefer, Chair
William Muche, Vice Chair
Joe Marsik, Secretary
Jeff Schmitt
Larry Schraufnagel

This report highlights the activities and accomplishments of the department in 2019. A main highlight of each Division is identified below and detailed further in the report.

- **Code Administration** – A 10+ year high was realized in 2019 for number of Land Use and Conditional Use Permits issued.
- **Land Information/GIS** – Developed Parks asset database: 1st Dept. to fully integrate with Tyler Munis Map/GIS functionality.
- **Planning & Economic Development** - Broadband Committee works to seek major State funding to enhance rural broadband.
- **Parks & Trails** – Final completion and Grand Opening/Dedication Celebration of Gold Star Memorial Trail – Phase 1.

The LRP Department is functionally divided into four major divisions. This report is organized by the order of the divisions below.

- **Code Administration**- responsible for managing the Land Use Code with its subdivision and comprehensive zoning district regulations and several associated overlay districts including Environmental Protection, Highway Setback, Planned Unit Development, Land Spreading of Petroleum Contaminated Soil, Wireless Communications Facilities, Wind Energy Systems, and Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation. This division is also responsible for the management and enforcement of the Dodge County Airport Zoning Ordinance, Floodplain Ordinance, Shoreland Protection Ordinance and Sanitary Ordinance. The Board of Adjustment administration and clerical assistance is also a responsibility of this division.
- **Land Information**- responsible for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data administration and management, mapping services, maintenance of the County addressing program, tax parcel mapping, survey services, and property description functions. GIS Administration is addressed under this division although many functions and services are provided independent of this Division and support all areas of the Department and other County Departments.
- **Planning and Economic Development**- responsible for maintaining the County Comprehensive Plan and plan components, amends and expands the Land Use Code, serves as liaison with the US Census Bureau, administers the Farmland Preservation Program, provides limited planning assistance to local municipalities. Economic Development functions include: Glacial Heritage Development Partnership/ThriveED, managing the industrial marketing program, community development database and revolving loan program, and coordinating County tourism development and marketing activities.
- **Parks and Trails**- responsible for planning, development and operation of the Dodge County Park and Trails system and the snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle programs.

Beyond the normal functions of the Department, LRP staff continued to provide their expertise to other Departments and County-wide efforts, such as Spillman GIS support and set up, Beaver Dam Lake District petition, website and social media content management, ERP GIS consultation, Wellness Committee leadership and more. An organizational chart with listing of 2019 staff and a detailed report for each division follows.

Please feel free to stop by the Department or give us a call should you ever have questions, comments, recommendations, need more information or would like to tour the Department and meet LRP staff!

Respectfully,



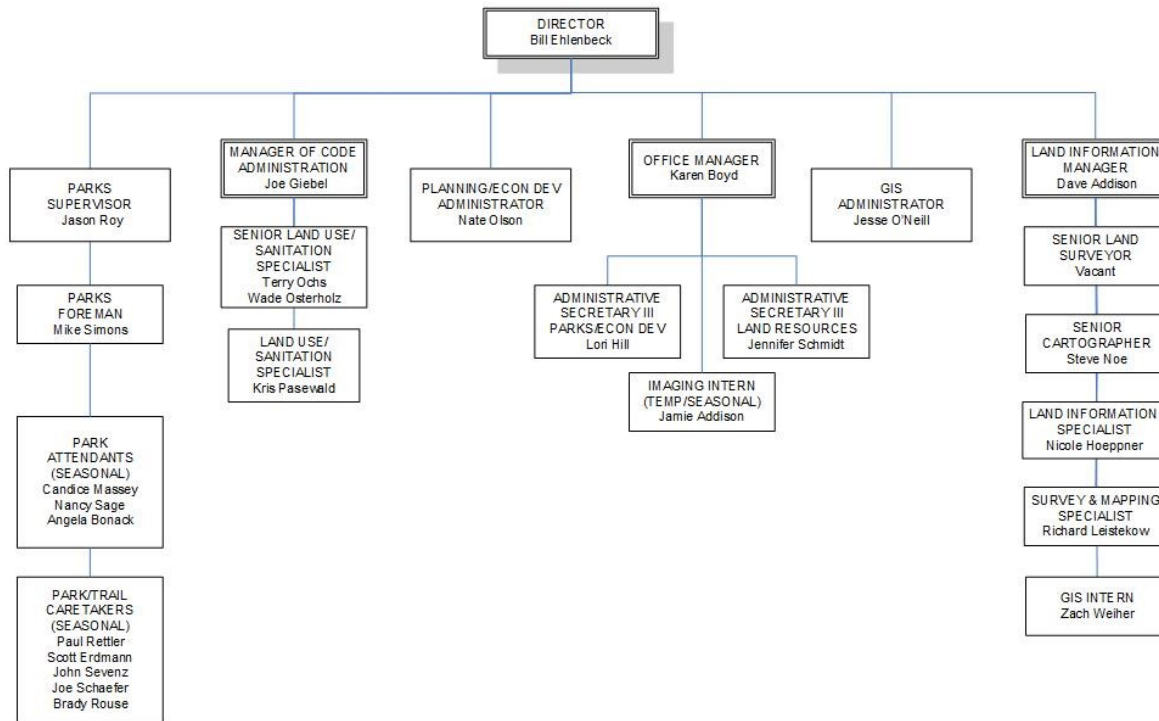
William J. Ehlenbeck, Director

Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department

Annual Report-2019

Land Resources and Parks Committee

Land Resources and Parks Department



Code Administration Division

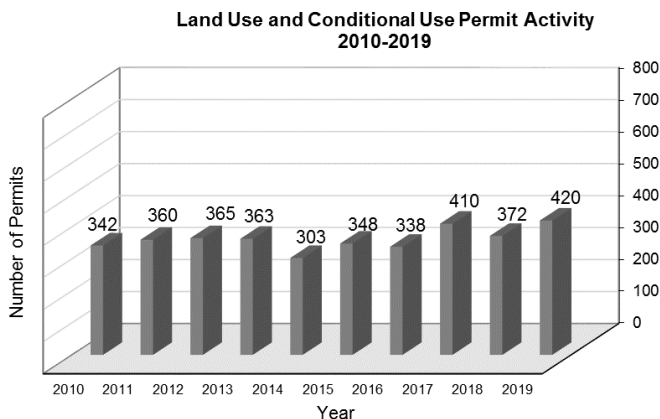
Code Administration manages the County Land Use Code which includes the zoning district regulations and standards, the Environmental Protection, Highway Setback, Planned Unit Development and Land Spreading of Petroleum Contaminated Soil regulations. This unit also enforces the County Airport Zoning Ordinance, Floodplain Ordinance, Shoreland Protection Ordinance, Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance and the Sanitary Ordinance regulations and standards.

ZONING

The zoning provisions of the County Land Use Code promote the health, safety, morals, prosperity, aesthetics and general welfare of the citizens of Dodge County by dividing the County into districts and regulating the use of structures, land and water within each district. Districts reflect the objectives of adopted plans of the County and its municipalities. Zoning provisions are based on ss. 59.69 which calls for county zoning to be in effect in towns which approve it. The Towns of Ashippun, Calamus, Elba, Fox Lake, Hustisford, Lebanon, Leroy, Lomira, Oak Grove, Rubicon, Shields and Trenton have approved the County Land Use Code. Shoreland-Wetland zoning, required by ss. 59.692, requires counties to regulate development within 1,000 feet of lakes, ponds and flowages and 300 feet of rivers and streams.

The Towns of Beaver Dam, Burnett, Chester, Clyman, Emmet, Herman, Hubbard, Lowell, Portland and Theresa have enacted town zoning ordinances, approved by the County Board of Supervisors. During 2019 the staff assisted most towns having town zoning ordinances. The Town of Westford does not have any zoning regulations except within the shoreland and floodplain areas.

The Land Use Code requires that a permit be obtained before changing the use of any structure, land or water, or locating or structurally altering any structure or sign. A land use permit is required for permitted uses or structures. A conditional use permit may be granted by the Land Resources and Parks Committee after a public hearing for conditionally allowed uses specified in each zoning district, to which conditions may be attached.



The Code Administration staff experienced an 8% increase in review activity in 2019 from permit applications and other code approval requests. Land Use Permits and Survey review requests resulted in the activity increase in 2019. Of the 391 Land Use Permit applications received, 37 were for new homes compared with 57 new home requests in 2018. The value of construction permitted by Land Use Permits under the County Land Use Code was \$21,617,387 in 2019 compared to \$25,314,140 in 2018.

Permits and Reviews		
	2018	2019
Land Use Permit	334	391
Sanitary Permit	150	142
Rezoning	17	8
Conditional Use Permit	38	29
Minor Land Division	75	69
Certified Survey Maps	50	68
Driveway Permit	50	47
Town Rezoning	6	10
Sanitary Compliance Reviews	0	0
Soil Evaluation Reviews	147	152
Violations	9	29
Plats	2	2
Variances	14	16
Total	892	963

Code Administration Division

Staff also conducted site inspections, developed staff reports, drafted resolutions and made recommendations to the Land Resources and Parks Committee concerning rezoning and conditional use permits. The staff also prepared minutes, decisions, hearing notices and agendas for each meeting. Town rezoning and text amendments were reviewed in 2019 for the Towns of Beaver Dam, Chester, Emmet, Hubbard, Lowell, Portland and Theresa.

FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE

The floodplain ordinance contains the minimum regulatory standards required in Ch. NR 116, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and those of the National Floodplain Insurance Program. Activities such as dredging, filling, excavating and construction of buildings within the floodplain are generally allowed, but may be

restricted according to which flood zone the property is located in. The adoption and enforcement of the ordinance allow the County to continue to participate in the FEMA Flood Insurance Program.

**2019 Submitted
Land Use and Conditional Use Permits**

Town	Land Use Permits	Conditional Use Permits	New Homes
ASHIPPUN	58	4	6
BEAVER DAM	10	0	4
BURNETT	5	0	0
CALAMUS	24	0	4
CHESTER	0	0	0
CLYMAN	5	0	0
ELBA	14	2	2
EMMET	12	0	2
FOX LAKE	47	6	4
HERMAN	1	0	0
HUBBARD	28	1	1
HUSTISFORD	14	0	1
LEBANON	28	4	3
LEROY	11	0	2
LOMIRA	21	0	2
LOWELL	13	0	1
OAK GROVE	16	5	0
Juneau (C)	3	0	0
PORTLAND	2	0	0
RUBICON	24	3	5
SHIELDS	17	0	0
THERESA	2	0	0
TRENTON	17	4	0
WESTFORD	19	0	0
2019 TOTALS	391	29	37
2018 TOTALS	334	38	57

AIRPORT ZONING ORDINANCE

The Airport Zoning Ordinance was approved by the County Board in 2011. This ordinance regulates the height of structures near the Dodge County Airport. The ordinance also imposes additional “overlay zoning” regulations, which are in addition to those “underlying zoning” regulations that will maintain a compatible relationship between airport operations and existing and future land uses within the three mile jurisdictional boundary. Permits are required for all construction within three miles of the airport.

HIGHWAY SETBACK OVERLAY DISTRICT

Dodge County adopted a Highway Setback Ordinance in 1952. The Overlay District establishes setback distances and requires permits for construction within 200 feet of a public road. Seventeen of the County's 23 towns have approved these district regulations.

SHORELAND PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Dodge County updated the Shoreland Protection Ordinance on May 21, 2019. The Shoreland Protection Ordinance applies to all land in unincorporated areas that are located within 1,000

feet of a lake, pond or flowage, within 300 feet of a navigable river or stream, within a wetland and within the floodplain of a river or stream. The ordinance establishes minimum standards governing lot size, lot coverage, structure height, impervious surface area and water setback regulations for all development within a shoreland area. The ordinance also contains mitigation standards which allow the owner to make certain improvements to a parcel located within the shoreland area that may be nonconforming to the setback, impervious surface area or the height standards in the code without a variance, in exchange for agreeing to certain mitigation requirements listed in the ordinance.

SUBDIVISION OVERLAY DISTRICT

The Land Use Code contains subdivision design and improvement regulations which apply to the division of land in unincorporated areas of Dodge County. County approval is required for most land divisions.

Code Administration Division

Certified Survey Maps

A property division of four parcels or less requires the submission of a Letter of Intent. The town board and affected County agencies may comment regarding compliance with regulations and plans. The subdivider may then proceed with soil tests and a certified survey. In 2019, 67 Letters of Intent were submitted and 68 certified survey maps were approved. In 2018, 75 Letters of Intent were submitted and 50 certified survey maps were approved.

Plat Review

Proposed subdivisions of five or more parcels in unincorporated areas require the submission of preliminary and final plats. Plats in cities and villages are reviewed by the Department, but the County Land Use Code does not apply. Two Condominium plats were reviewed in 2019.

SANITARY ORDINANCE

The County Sanitary Ordinance protects the public health by regulating the location, construction, installation, alteration, design and use of private sewage disposal systems. Permits are required for the installation of holding tanks, septic tanks and absorption areas and systems. Sanitary regulations apply in all areas of Dodge County, including cities and villages. Administration of this Ordinance consists of site investigations, review of applications, permit issuing, installation inspections and compliance investigations.

Sanitary Permits

During 2019, 142 sanitary permits were issued compared to 150 in 2018. There were 152 soil test reviews completed in 2019 in comparison to 147 in 2018. State sanitary code mandates that every POWTS (septic system) in the County is serviced and inspected once every three (3) years. As part of the mandate, the County is required to maintain a data base of these systems and is required to send out notices to those property owners with POWTS located within the County needing the 3-year maintenance inspection. There were 3922 initial notices sent out in 2018 as compared to 4347 notices in 2018.

Wisconsin Fund

In 1980, the Board of Supervisors authorized County participation in the Wisconsin Fund Grant Assistance Program. Implementation of an on-site waste disposal system maintenance program makes owners of failing sewage systems eligible for state grant assistance. In 2019, four applications were received by the Department for grant assistance. Three applicants were determined to be eligible and a request for a maximum grant of \$17,815.00 was submitted to the state. One applicant was determined to be ineligible.

Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Program

Chapter 295 of Wisconsin Statutes mandated that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources create regulations to ensure non-metallic mines are properly reclaimed. In 2001, Dodge County was mandated to administer NR 135. Each mine is required to have a reclamation plan that outlines the process to fully reclaim mine sites, as well as maintain financial assurance to guarantee the mine site will be reclaimed. Mines are located within 15 of the 23 towns in Dodge County. In 2019, there were 17 mine operators and 29 mine sites in the County with approximately 800 acres being actively mined. The mines range in size from 1.8-acres to 118.6-acres. Two mine sites were fully reclaimed in 2019.

In addition to working with mine operators, the staff works with financial institutions to maintain financial assurance for each site. Various methods are used to maintain financial assurance, letters of credit and bonds being the most popular. Currently there is approximately \$2,373,631.05 in financial assurances. This program is funded with annual fees that are charged to mine operators.

Code Administration Division

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Dodge County Board of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial body charged with the responsibility of deciding appeals and applications filed with it under the terms of the Zoning Codes. The Board of Adjustment acts somewhat like a court, therefore, it is vitally important that the Board follows accepted procedures and fairly evaluates the relevant facts in each case that comes before them. In order to allow for meaningful certiorari review by a circuit court, the board is required to explain the “grounds” it relied upon to make its decisions – or the reasons the application does or does not fit the legal criteria for granting a variance. The Board must, therefore, carefully document whether the requirements for granting a variance are present or not in each request. Each decision of the Board must be made on the basis of facts available and be in accordance with guidelines found in the County Codes and Ordinances, the Wisconsin State Statutes and Court decisions interpreting the Statutes. Every person who appeals to the Board of Adjustment and who is aggrieved by the Board’s decision may appeal such decision to circuit court. Cases have become more complex over the years and many decisions are being challenged in the courts. The Department staff assists the Board of Adjustment by conducting site inspections, developing staff reports and making recommendations to the Board of Adjustment concerning variance requests and appeals. The staff also prepared minutes, hearing notices and agendas for each meeting. Legal advice from the Corporation Counsel is also required at times to arrive at judicious and legal decisions. The activities of the Board of Adjustment during the calendar year 2019 as well as comparison figures for 2014 through 2018 were as follows.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Meetings Held	4	13	12	14	12	14
Total Public Hearings Held	8	22	14	14	12	13
Variance Requests						
Zoning Ordinance	3	6	3	9	5	5
Shoreland Ordinance	1	3	1	1	3	6
Floodplain Ordinance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highway Setback Overlay	3	10	5	2	2	3
Airport Ordinance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Ordinance	1	2	1	1	3	0
Subdivision	0	4	2	1	0	0
Totals	8	25	12	14	12	14
Board Decisions on Variance Requests						
Granted as proposed	5	5	6	5	1	0
Granted with conditions	2	15	5	7	9	10
Partially Granted / Partially Denied	0	0	0	0	1	0
Denied	1	5	1	2	1	4
Decision Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0
Withdrawn	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appeals of a decision of the Land Resources and Parks Committee and / or the Land Use Administrator	0	0	2	0	0	2
Board Decisions on Appeals						
Upheld	0	0	2	0	0	2
Reversed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Partially Upheld / Partially Reversed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appeal of a decision of the Board of Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0	1
Upheld	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reversed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	1

Land Information Division

The Land Information Division is under the jurisdiction of the Land Resources and Parks Committee and with significant input from the Dodge County Land Information Council.

The Land Information Council is comprised of nine members: Chris Planasch, Register of Deeds; Patti Hilker, Treasurer; Dave Addison, Land Information Office representative; Sheriff Dale Schmidt or designee; three members of the Dodge County Board of Supervisors – Allen Behl, Jeff Berres, Larry Schraufnagel; Realtors Association representative, Dianne Bell; registered professional land surveyor within Dodge County, Mike Laue. The Land Resources and Parks Committee encourages the Highway Commissioner, Emergency Management Director, Land Conservationist, Land Resources and Parks Director, and any other county or municipal staff or general public with an interest in land records and land records modernization to attend.

The division has responsibility for all Land Information System/Geographic Information Systems (LIS/GIS) data and software management and mapping for the Department. Other functions include survey services, maintenance and administration of on-line GIS mapping tool and Land Information Search Tool (LIST), and property assessment functions supporting the Dodge County Land Information Management System (LIMS).

The Division is a great resource available to all County Departments (including Land Resources and Parks, Land and Water Conservation, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Highway, Emergency Management, County Clerk, Corporation Counsel, and Dodge County Sheriff's Office and Communications Center), local, regional, state and federal units of government, the private sector and the general public.

Revenue Sources: The main outside revenue source for the Land Information Office (LIO) (BU 811) comes from Real Estate Recording Fees collected in the Register of Deeds Office as part of the *Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP)* (administered by the Department of Administration). Document recording fees are retained at the county level and available thru grants awarded by DOA. The program is governed by state statutes 16.967 and 59.72, as well as Administrative Rule Chapter Adm. 47. From 1990 through 2019, Dodge County has received \$2,888,399 from retained fees and \$529,871 from grants, totaling \$3,418,399 from WLIP.

Summary of WLIP Revenues from Retained Fees and Grants (October 1, 1990 - December 31, 2019)
12/31/2019

										FUND BALANCE December 31, 2018	
Year	# Docs	LIO	Grant Public Access	*CB grant	**ET grant	***SI grant	Purpose				
1990	2,731	10,922	0		300					LIO	\$ 127,410
1991	9,088	36,350	0		300					Public Access	\$ -
1992	16,404	65,616	0	100,000	300		2 grants for remonumentation			C/P/S	\$ 19,011
1993	17,556	70,224	0		300					Total	146,421
1994	16,128	64,512	0		300					Committed 2018	
1995	15,538	62,152	0	93,000	300		NAPP aerials and soils			Uncommitted	146,421
1996	18,329	73,316	0		300						
1997	17,908	71,632	0	27,228	300		parcel mapping of 4 towns/City of Fox Lake/LTE (Eileen Borth)				
1998	23,905	95,620	0	10,562	300		workstation/CAD/LTE for PIN insertion				
1999	22,474	89,896	0	41,701	300		orthos for 102 sections				
2000	17,266	69,065	0	17,451	300		CB-orthos for 50 sections / SIG-metadata software	1,387			
2001	24,946	99,782	8,711	11,919	300		upgrade Arc, Spatial Analyst maint, LTE, NT Client Server licenses/SIG-web data	14,300			
2002	28,954	115,816	28,954	24,823	300		LRSI, upgrade Arc to 8.3staff, staff, LTE, color upgrade to Xerox 8830				
2003	36,072	144,287	36,118		300						
2004	25,063	100,252	25,063		300						
2005	23,089	92,356	23,089		300						
2006	20,920	83,680	20,920		300						
2007	19,195	76,780	19,195		300						
2008	17,356	69,424	17,348		300						
2009	19,102	76,408	19,102		300						
2010	17,182	88,588	27,110		300		increased effective with enactment of Act 314 June 25, 2010				
2011	15,035	90,210	30,070		300						
2012	18,071	108,408	36,136		300						
2013	15,063	90,378	30,126		300						
2014	12,070	72,420	24,140		300						
2015	13,242	79,452	26,484		1,000						
2016	13,402	107,216	NA		1,000	25,000	50% of 2016 grant rec'd for LIDAR				
2017	13,316	106,528	NA		1,000	50,000	50% of 2016 grant and 50% of 2017 grant rec'd for LIDAR				
2018	12,427	99,416	NA		1,000	75,000	50% of 2017 grant rec'd for LIDAR + 2018 \$50,000 grant rec'd for Bldg Footprints				
2019	13,157	105,256	NA	11/3/19	1,000	25,000	50% of 2019 grant				
TOTAL	534,989	2,515,962	372,566	326,684	12,500	190,687					
LIO \$6 for first page of each recorded document for modernization of land records (increased by \$2 June 25, 2010 with Act 314; original establishment October 1, 1990)											
Public Access \$2 for first page of each recorded document for improving public access to housing data (increased by \$1 June 25, 2010 with Act 314; original establishment September 1, 2001)											
Grants \$2 for first page of each recorded document returned to WI-DOA for distribution as grants and program administration (January 1, 2015 increased to \$7)											
TOTALS	3,418,399	2,888,528	from retained fees								
from WLIP		529,871	from grants								

Land Information Division

These funds support operations of the Land Information Office, annual maintenance of GIS, CAD and GPS software, new equipment purchases, LTE's to assist with projects, contracting of professional services, and support of various land records-related projects. Funding for BU 811 is non-lapsing and by statute must be used to support land records modernization activities. Funds not used in a budget year accrue in the Designated Fund Balance for future large cost projects such as orthophotography and LiDAR (elevation data), survey and computer equipment, application development and/or system upgrades. Revenues are dependent upon the strength of the economy with no funding from the tax levy.

There are no other significant revenues received due to a strict interpretation of Wisconsin's Open Records Law. Data is freely shared and exchanged with other units of government and the private and public sectors. Numerous walk-in, email, on-line and telephone requests are filled daily. The availability of geospatial data on-line through the LIST and GIS Web Mapping tool provide 24-7 access for a wide spectrum of users and has helped reduce the work load of staff. Downloadable datasets were added in 2019 and available via the internet, further reducing staff workloads by reducing individual requests.

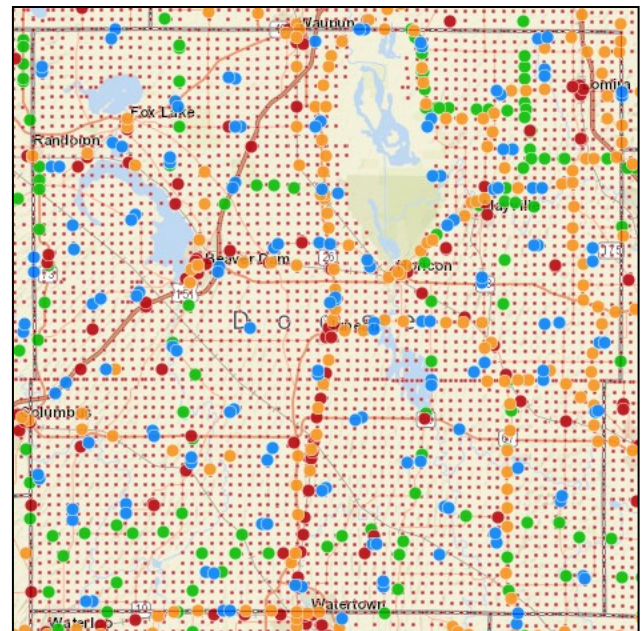
The Division continues to provide information and services to a wide range of users. Efficiencies have increased, duplication of effort has been reduced or eliminated, and additional land related information is made available to more people and organizations on a timely basis resulting in better decision-making.

Highlights and Projects - Summarized Below By Office.

Much of the work is collaborative between the various offices within the division.

Survey – Reviewed Certified Survey maps as part of CSM Review policy and all other surveys (CSM's not part of review authority and Plats of Surveys) submitted for filing. Surveys were hyperlinked into Access Database and filed in section folders. Updated survey information in GPS binders in office and updated files available through the State Cartographer's Office (SCO) Control Finder and PLSS Finder internet applications.

Performed on-going Public Land Survey System (PLSS) section corner maintenance, site visits to check monuments and field checks of surveys. Checked with Towns regarding their annual notification of planned roadwork that would damage or destroy PLSS monumentation. Did elevation checks on the Gold Star Memorial Trail bridge. Provided technical support for survey-related questions and assisted private surveyors and public with questions, corner research, data requests and locating section corners. Performed survey-related field work for Department, Other Departments and Committees as well as Local Municipalities and Government Agencies upon request.



Control Finder and PLSS Finder
Showing Section Corner Information

In 2019, the County Surveyor retired leaving the Department without a Registered Land Surveyor on staff. The decision was made to try contracting out surveying services that required a Registered Land Surveyor with MSA Professional Services rather than immediately try to rehire.

Land Information Division

Tax Mapping

Parcel Fabric: The conversion of county tax parcel mapping from CAD to GIS using the ESRI Parcel Fabric began in 2018 and continued developing throughout 2019. Much of the parcel work continued to be done in the CAD environment but under the Parcel Fabric system updates are now more efficiently and more frequently pushed out to the website for public access.

With the implementation of ArcMap Parcel Fabric, the Department will now become more efficient in its publication of data for the county and the public that it serves. Splits for 2019 will continue to be done on a weekly basis, though there has been discussion of possibly doing them on a daily basis for near real time property data accuracy. At least in the short term, maps will still be updated in the AutoCAD format for use by the survey staff and on request by the general public.

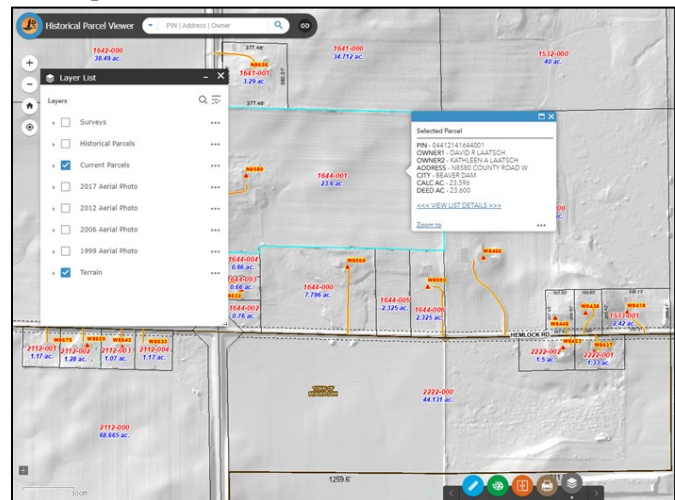
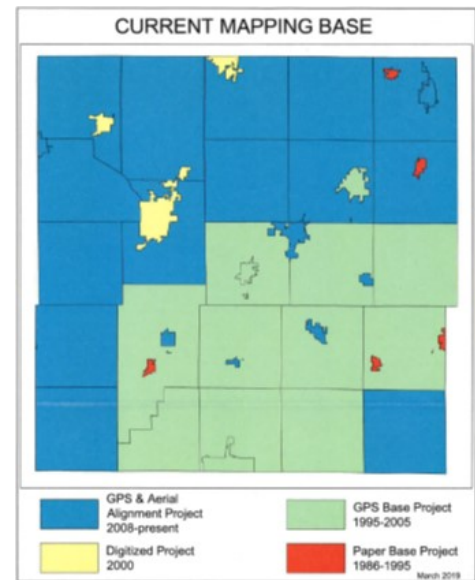
The maps and data can be accessed on the County's website under the "Services" menu – click GIS Web Mapping Tool or Land Information Search Tool.

Remapping: Work continues on the City of Beaver Dam high accuracy remapping project started in 2017. Remapping of the County is an ongoing project to improve the mapping and boundary accuracy.

Real Estate Description

Worked with County Clerk, Corporation Counsel and GIS staff to verify petitions for the formation of the Beaver Dam Lake District. Worked with GIS staff to create the Historical Parcel Viewer, a tool developed to assist local Assessors especially for new parcels.

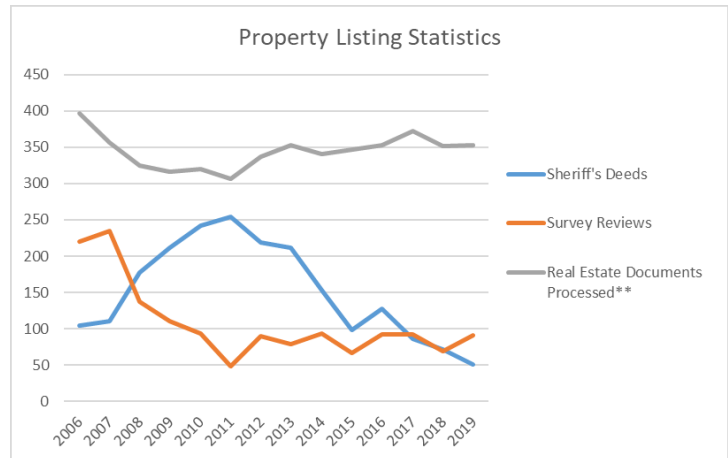
Utilized a new function in GCS that allows the county to view Real Estate & Personal Property associations and verify taxation districts are correct in the Personal Property module. Also reviewed drainage district mapping to verify the correct parcels are in/out of the district. The office continues to process assessment data in a timely fashion to meet assessor's deadlines and complete in time to run the tax bills. The division also kept current on processing documents and updating and verifying Parcel ID numbers of the DOR Electronic Real Estate Transfer Returns.



Land Information Division

Assisted public with general property questions at the counter, on the phone or through email and consulted with County Code Administration on possible land division violations.

General Statistics for 2019: 47,754 Real Estate parcels and 2,217 personal property accounts were maintained in 2019. Approximately 3,523 real estate recordings from the Register of Deeds Office were processed affecting 5,005 tax parcels. 2,958 parcels had ownership updates. 514 tax parcels are showing an error on a recorded document and 38 tax parcels are “on hold” (not yet updated ownership information due to significant errors). Staff processed 51 Sheriff’s Deeds for 52 tax parcels, 1 new TID District and 2 annexations in 2019 (effective for 2020).



Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

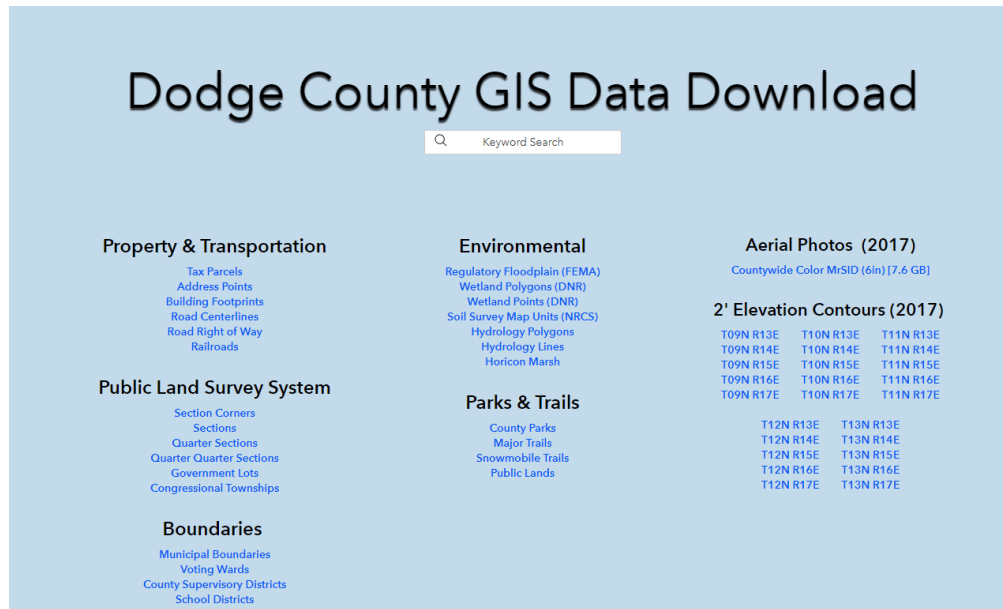
As the demand for spatial data increases, the system supporting the quality and availability of this data (i.e. GIS) becomes increasingly important. 2019 saw the ramp up and preparation for the countywide implementation of the Tyler Munis ERP project, as well as implementation of a major upgrade for the Spillman FLEX Dispatch software in the Sheriff’s Office. Both of these software suites rely on GIS data to perform functions ranging from basic map display to more complex tasks like routing and asset management. GIS staff set up the Parks Division asset database as the 1st Department to fully integrate Tyler mapping/GIS functionality for asset maintenance. As more departments implement spatially aware software platforms, GIS will become even more heavily integrated into workflows across the county. We continue to modernize our systems and processes to accommodate this increased demand. Improvements were also made this year in terms of making our GIS data available over the internet to the public and internally via download or display in various web mapping applications. As always, we continue to provide ad-hoc and project level mapping and data support for many county departments as needed.

- 1) Mapping, data, and mailing list support for the public and various county departments.

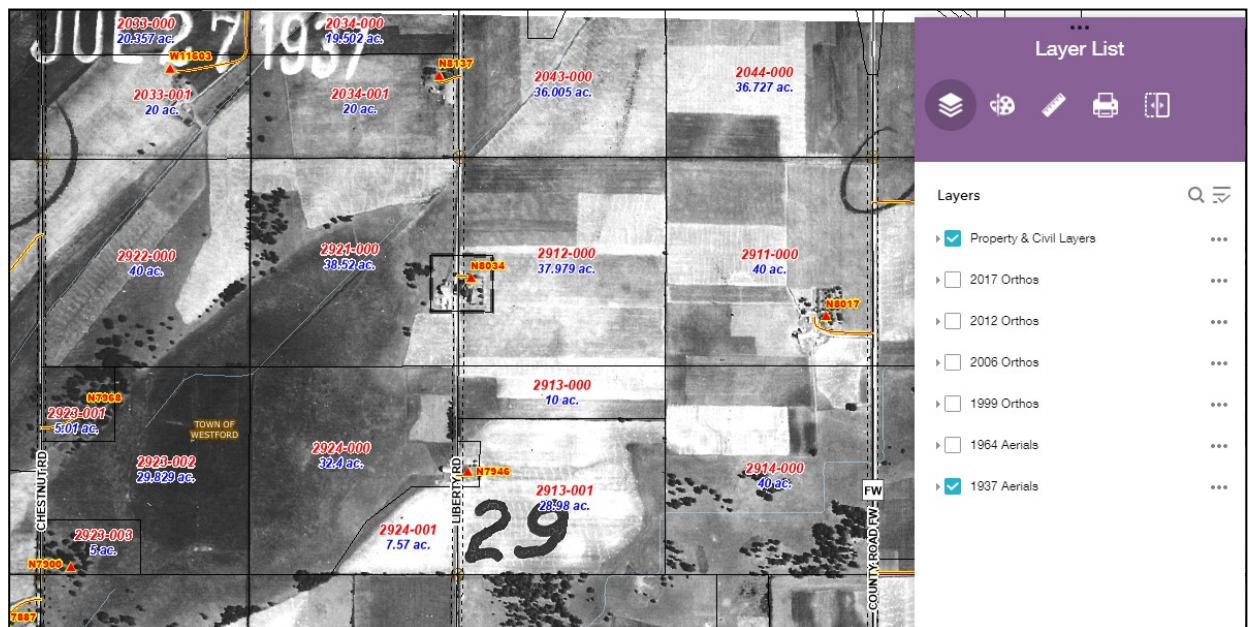
	2018	2019
Code Permits (mapping, mailing lists)	203	196
Land Divisions (LOI)	74	68
Board of Adjustment	14	12
Conditional Use	31	28
Rezoning	30	43
Highway Access	50	41
Comp Plan Revisions	4	4
Building Numbers Assigned	89	57
Public Map Requests	51	33
Large Format Print Jobs	60	74
Data Requests	87	53

Land Information Division

- Developed an online Open Data portal facilitating public download of GIS data from the County's website. This significantly reduced the number of formal data requests.

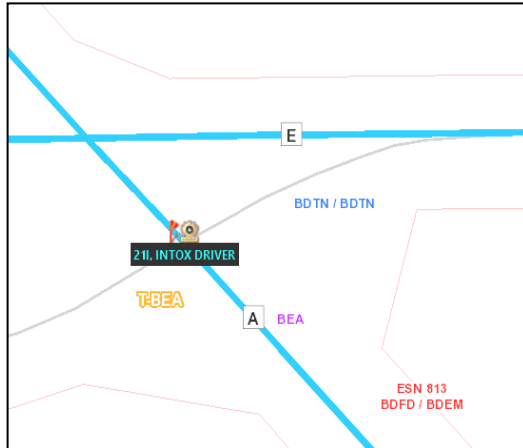
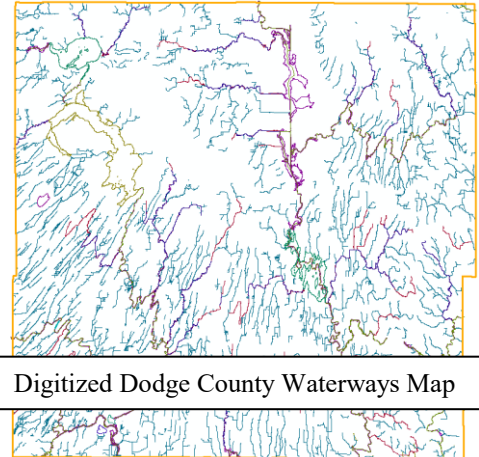


- Developed queries, scripts, and modeling tools to efficiently extract GIS data from native SQL databases (Parcel Fabric, Addressing, etc). These tools automatically prepare the native data for publication and consumption by various mapping platforms.



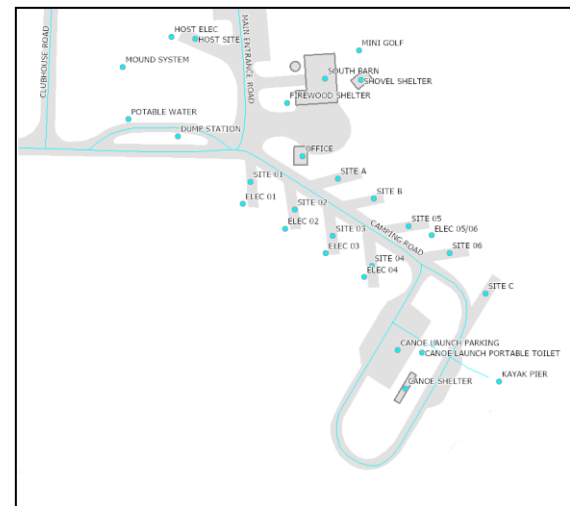
- Georeferenced 1937 USDA aerial photos and created an online app to access all county aerial photo offerings:

- 5) Utilized a summer intern to digitize waterways from 2017 aerial photos. Work on-going to combine new waterway line work with attributes from historical versions:
- 6) Continued support for Sheriff's Department Spillman FLEX software through GIS data maintenance, software updates, and patch cycle support.



- 7) Participated in various programs supporting the 2020 census, focused on improving accuracy of geographic data used by the Census Bureau. Some examples of these programs include:
 - a. LUCA – Local Update of Census Addresses
 - b. PSAP – Participant Statistical Areas Program
 - c. CBAS – Consolidated Boundary and Annexation Survey

- 8) Provided GIS data and web mapping support for Tyler Munis ERP project implementation, allowing for mapping visualization and query of assets for Parks and Highway. More assets will be mapped and connected to the system in coming years.
- 9) Significant improvements to online mapping applications, including:
 - a. Improvements to the QMap Code Enforcement application to make it more mobile-friendly
 - b. Addition of parcel dimensions and other annotation to the public web map (www.dodgecountywebmap.com)



Planning and Economic Development Division

Within the Land Resources and Parks Department, the Planning and Economic Development Division provides a wide scope of services throughout Dodge County. Activities that occur within this division can be characterized as community development, as many planning and economic development activities play critical roles in the encompassing community development sector. Community development in Dodge County is wide ranging, as the needs in the rural and urban communities can be very different. Providing leadership and service to all the businesses and residents in those communities can be extensive. Especially considering there are nearly 90,000 residents residing in one of the 42 cities, towns, and villages in Dodge County, which are spread across almost 900 square miles. Although the scope is large and the needs are diverse between the differing types of communities, they are very much intertwined and dependent on each other to be successful. Not only do public entities need to work on a variety of community development activities, but private sector entities play an important role as well. Developing and facilitating opportunities between public and private entities is essential to address the issues facing Dodge County.

There are a variety of issues facing Dodge County, they range from resident/workforce attraction needs, stagnate population growth, aging population, supporting primary employer retention/expansion, community preparedness for business/resident attraction, childcare/housing/transportation deficiencies, implementing tools so communities can be sustainable for the future, the digital divide between the rural vs urban areas, plus many more. While there are many issues Dodge County must deal with, there are opportunities to address them and work towards positive outcomes. The Planning and Economic Development Administrator is in a position to coordinate activities and provide positive leadership to maximize opportunities that address issues and that will make businesses and residents want to call Dodge County home.

Below is a summary of the activities being worked on in the Planning and Economic Development Division.

Broadband (High Speed Internet) Expansion Project

Dodge County Board of Supervisors recognized the need to address the lack of accessibility to high speed internet (broadband) in Dodge County. The Planning and Economic Development Administrator was tasked with leading an initiative to develop solutions to address the broadband deficiencies in the County. To begin working on that issue, a Broadband Workgroup was created by the Board and included representatives from the public and private sectors. To help effectively lead the broadband initiative, the Planning and Economic Development Administrator was placed on the Broadband Workgroup as well. In 2019 the workgroup conducted many meetings to better gauge issues and opportunities in Dodge County. One opportunity that was reviewed extensively was the Public Service Commission (PSC) Broadband Expansion Grant program. In order to position Dodge County in the best situation to obtain funds, the workgroup conducted a Request for Interest (RFI). The RFI was utilized to determine which service providers were interested in working with Dodge County and applying for PSC's Broadband Expansion Grant dollars. Through that process there were two service providers selected, Bertram Communications and Netwurx Internet. In working with the County Board of Supervisors and the Broadband Workgroup, Dodge County allocated \$200,000 towards an awarded PSC Broadband Expansion Grant. Additionally, four towns have pledged \$4,000 and Marshfield Clinic Health System pledged \$15,000 to an awarded grant. The PSC Broadband Expansion Grant application was submitted in December 2019 and included:

- 24 infrastructure projects throughout Dodge County.
- \$1,291,032.00 requested in Broadband Expansion Grant funding.
- \$1,487,052.00 funding provided by service providers.
- A significant amount of public and private support was obtained (over 65 letters of support).

Planning and Economic Development Division

If awarded, the Planning and Economic Development Administrator will work with the service providers and the Wisconsin Broadband office to administer the grant for the broadband infrastructure projects. Additionally, Dodge County obtained Telecommuter Forward Certification from the PSC. It appointed the Planning and Economic Development Administrator as the representative for coordinating telecommuting opportunities within Dodge County and responsible for certification objectives.

Thrive Economic Development (ThriveED)

The ThriveED entity is a collaboration between private businesses and public entities that have committed to investing in the organization and supporting economic development activities in the two county region (Dodge and Jefferson Counties). The public/private economic development organization is proving to be a solid investment Dodge County. Per ThriveED's Strategic Plan, the main areas focus are in:



for
of

- **Business** – Grow businesses, capital investments and employment opportunities.
- **Workforce** – Attract, develop and align talent.
- **Branding / Marketing** – Raise awareness of the area's assets and the organization to attract business investment and talent.

Dodge County's commitment to ThriveED and its partnership with Jefferson County is very unique in Wisconsin and is resulting in new activities being implemented in the two County region. There is significant coordination between the Planning and Economic Development Administrator and the President of ThriveED / Executive Director of Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium (JCEDC) to implement a variety of economic development activities in Dodge County. This coordination has resulted in:

- Creating a positive and impactful Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) program to support existing business growth in Dodge County.
- Positioning Dodge County to be competitive for site searches for new development, while also meeting the needs of existing businesses looking to expand in Dodge County.
- Creating positive relationships with existing businesses to facilitate expansion efforts in Dodge County.
- Developing strategies for resident/workforce attraction, building a workforce pipeline.
- Develop and update a five year Strategic Plan
- Actively working to develop new collaboration opportunities between K-12, Madison College, Moraine Park Technical College, and primary employers.
- Cultivating a new marketing strategy for the two county partnership, including a new brand.



Planning and Economic Development Division

Overall, there is significant coordination between the Planning and Economic Development Administrator and the President of ThriveED / Executive Director of JCEDC to implement a variety of economic development activities in Dodge County. Successes are being recognized and supported by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors, as shown in the additional financial support that was approved by the board in 2019 for a Dodge County focused Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) specialist. A BRE specialist was hired by ThriveED and works extensively with the Planning and Economic Development Administrator on the Dodge County BRE program.

Manufacturing Business Alliance

The Manufacturing Business Alliance (MBA) of the Dodge County Region is composed of public and private entities working to maintain the strong local manufacturing sector. Dodge County has a strong manufacturing sector, with approximately 30 percent of its residents employed in that sector. The MBA serves to advocate for manufacturing, with a focus on promoting manufacturing as a positive career choice. The Planning and Economic Development Administrator represents Dodge County on the MBA and actively works on the steering committee. There are a variety of activities needed to making the MBA successful with its mission/vision/goals. A primary objective is to work as a facilitator between K-12 school districts, Moraine Park Technical College, and manufacturing businesses to highlight manufacturing career opportunities. A primary activity of that objective is an annual education/tour opportunity for high school students to learn about careers in the advanced manufacturing industry. The Planning and Economic Development Administrator works with manufacturers and MBA members to create the annual tour opportunities for school districts. The recent coordination of MBA led school tours of local manufacturer facilities for students have resulted in approximately 500 students from 10 school districts touring 11 manufacturing facilities. The 2020 tour event is expected to be bigger.

Along with current MBA activities, efforts are underway to determine the feasibility of expanding to an encompassing Business Education Alliance (BEA). A BEA would work with all employers and school districts to fully identify career options in the region. The Planning and Economic Development Administrator has been actively working with the President of ThriveED to determine feasibility of creating a robust BEA program in Dodge and Jefferson Counties.

Alliant Energy

Alliant Energy is a partner of Dodge County on a variety of development opportunities. The Planning and Economic Development Administrator is charged with being the County representative to work with Alliant Energy and has been actively working on a variety of development projects with Alliant Energy. The first project was the creation of the Beaver Dam Commerce Park, which is a 520 acre industrial park on the north edge of the City of Beaver Dam (currently in the Town of Trenton). Dodge County has targeted this area for industrial development, partnering with Alliant Energy is making that long standing goal a reality.

Also, Alliant Energy is in the early stages of exploring the possibility of creating a solar project in Dodge County. Coordination efforts have been underway to research potential locations and size options for a fairly significant project in Dodge County. Additionally, the Planning and Economic Development Administrator has coordinated efforts to determine local/state tax implications and permitting/requirements with local/county/state officials. In addition to the potential solar project, efforts have been made to introduce select Dodge County businesses to new renewable tariff programs offered by Alliant Energy. Further education and opportunities for the new renewable tariff programs will be explored in 2020. Overall, the development of the 520 acre Beaver Dam Commerce Park is exciting, especially considering new potential employment options and other development opportunities to the region.

Planning and Economic Development Division

Marshfield Clinic Health System

In 2019 the Beaver Dam Community Hospital merged with Marshfield Clinic Health System, the hospital facility is now known as Marshfield Medical Center – Beaver Dam. This affiliation has brought on many new opportunities for the Dodge County region. To fully recognize the variety of opportunities, the Planning and Economic Development Administrator is collaborating with Marshfield Clinic Health System’s administrative staff to identify past activities between Beaver Dam Community Hospital and Dodge County; while also identifying future activities. A considerable amount of time has been spent on identifying potential public and/or private entity collaboration opportunities. One such activity being worked on is the broadband expansion project. The Planning and Economic Development Administrator worked with Marshfield Clinic Health System staff to identify the potential of providing telemedicine services to Dodge County’s rural population, with improved high speed internet. To assist with increasing the availability of telemedicine and Dodge County’s effort to obtain a PSC Broadband Expansion Grant, Marshfield Clinic Health System has pledged \$15,000 to Dodge County’s effort.

It is anticipated that a variety of newly identified public/private activities will be pursued in 2020. The Planning and Economic Development Administrator will assist with facilitating to align projects, resources, and potential partners with Marshfield Clinic Health System.

Dodge County Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) - Revolving Loan Fund

The Planning and Economic Development Administrator is in charge of administering the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program. The RLF program provided low-interest loans for businesses that created new jobs, help businesses maintain or expand existing operations, and advance the county’s economic development goals and objectives. The RLF was intended to provide a financial incentive for business and industries to invest in their own growth by providing “leverage”. At year-end 2019, the financial status of the RLF program was:

- Dodge County had \$711,734.15 in cash on hand.
- Three active RLF loans, with approximately \$870,380 in outstanding balances.

In Wisconsin the CDBG-RLF program is being phased out and changed to CDBG-Close; which will require Dodge County to meet all federal and state requirements for funds on hand and outstanding loan balances. Efforts are underway to recognize potential opportunities the CDBG-Close program presents. Staff will continue to administer existing RLF loans and coordinate efforts to comply with CDBG-Close and potential projects that might be an option to pursue with CDBG-Close dollars.

Dodge County Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) – Housing Rehabilitation

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Housing Rehabilitation Program funds loans to eligible households for home repairs. The loans are a 0.0 percent interest deferred payment loan that is not paid back until the homeowner moves or sells their home. The Planning and Economic Development Administrator manages this program for Dodge County, with assistance from MSA Professional Services, Inc. In 2012 the Department of Administration – Division of Housing (DOH) changed the distribution method for the CDBG housing funds. Local governments and counties are no longer able to apply individually for CDBG housing funds, however Dodge County must still administer its original CDBG-Housing Rehabilitation program. Dodge County has its individual housing rehabilitation program and is also part of the Southern Housing Region program. Per the Southern Housing Region CDBG Housing Program, 2019 was an active year since:

- 23 Dodge County Citizens Applied for CDBG Loans
 - 8 Applicants were awarded a CDBG Loan, totaling \$348,155.96.
 - 9 Applicants are in the process of being awarded a CDBG Loan
 - 6 Applicants were not eligible

Planning and Economic Development Division

Tourism – Discover Dodge

There are a variety of tourism activities that are coordinated through the Planning and Economic Development Administrator. Dodge County has a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities, including the Dodge County park system, Gold Star Memorial Trail, Federal and State Horicon Marsh Areas, Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center, recreational trails, and waterways. The extensive amount of outdoor recreational options in Dodge County is within an hour's drive of a large portion of the state's population. Hence a significant amount of effort is put towards marketing Dodge County's outdoor recreation opportunities to the Fox Valley/Madison/Milwaukee regions.

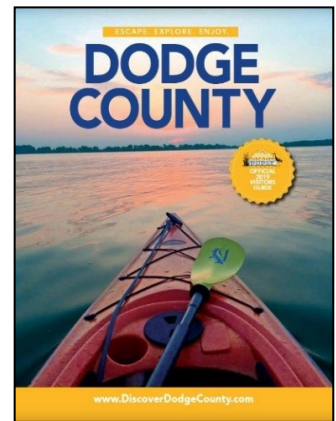


Notably, a main focus in 2019 was working with Discover Wisconsin to create a TV show featuring Dodge County and multiple communities. Working with Discover Wisconsin is making new advertising tools available to Dodge County and will further assist with bringing in additional tourists, but will also assist with resident/workforce attraction efforts.

**The Discover Wisconsin TV show will air on April 4, 2020 and October 9, 2021.*

Additional tourism activities include:

- Team up with Capital Newspaper to annually update and distribute 35,000 Dodge County Visitor Guides.
- Create digital marketing campaigns and advertise to select markets.
- Continued improvement and expansion of the Discover Dodge website.
- Coordinating efforts to develop a tourism feature with the Dodge County waterways as a destination for canoe / kayaking.
- Continued cooperation with CGI Communications for the Dodge County Video Promotion Program.



Park and Trail Assistance

The Planning and Economic Development Administrator has a history of working along with the Director of the Land Resources and Parks Department on a variety of Dodge County park system developments and administrative needs. Such activities range from the creation/updating of the Dodge County Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan, local community park plans, and trail development (land and water). Recently, a large focus of effort has been placed on researching and securing grant funds and donations for the development of the Gold Star Memorial Trail (GSMT) project. The GSMT project has required extensive coordination with the project's citizen group and various fundraising activities. Phase 1 of the GSMT was constructed in 2018 and had a grand opening on June 1, 2019.

In 2019, funds were secured from local hospital foundations to fund the development of a feasibility study for the remaining sections of the GSMT (connecting the City of Beaver Dam to the City of Horicon). Educational outreach efforts to the public have been conducted with the preliminary results of the feasibility study. Final feasibility activities are expected to wrap up in early 2020. Efforts are underway to apply for federal and state grant dollars to fund the remaining GSMT sections. It is anticipated that funding needed will reach \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000; hence all funding options will need to be considered. The Director of the Land Resources and Parks Department and Planning and Economic Development Administrator will continue to work together on this significant community development project.

Planning and Economic Development Division

Capital Improvement Plan

In collaboration with the Dodge County Administrator, the Planning and Economic Development Administrator annually creates the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Dodge County. The CIP is a plan that identifies and prioritizes major capital expenditures (over \$50,000) each year over a five year time period. The plan is updated annually to reflect changing needs and priorities, and to extend the plan another year. The CIP is completed with the cooperation of other County department directors and is formally adopted by the County Board.

Dodge County Comprehensive Plan

The Planning and Economic Development division is tasked with maintaining the Dodge County Comprehensive Plan. The Dodge County Year 2030 Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the County Board in March of 2006. A process to amend the Comprehensive Plan has been established, whereby amendments to the Plan can be considered twice each year. A public hearing is held on the amendments and proper notice is given. Since January of 2010, all land division and zoning ordinance amendments are required by state statute to be consistent with the County Comprehensive Plan. State statute requires that Comprehensive Plans be completely updated at least every ten years. An amended Dodge County Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors in May of 2015. The Comprehensive Plan and Farmland Preservation Plan must be consistent with each other. Also, the Farmland Preservation Plan is included as an appendix in the Comprehensive Plan.

Farmland Preservation Program

The Farmland Preservation Program provides state income tax credit for landowners who agree to keep their land in agriculture. Dodge County has been participating in the state's Farmland Preservation Program since 1979. The main purpose of the program is to preserve Wisconsin farmland by means of local land use planning and conservation practices. Landowners that participate in the Farmland Preservation Program are eligible to collect Farmland Preservation tax credits. Wisconsin State Statute requires a county to adopt a Farmland Preservation Plan. A new Dodge County Farmland Preservation Plan was adopted by the County Board in June of 2011 and is in an appendix in the Comprehensive Plan (per statute). This Plan was certified by Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and will allow eligible landowners to continue to collect farmland preservation program tax credits as well as the opportunity to participate in other farmland preservation programs.

The Planning and Economic Development Administrator works to maintain county and town eligibility, as well as educate local government officials and landowners on participation methods. There has been significant outreach efforts in the past, which has resulted in strong participation across Dodge County. As a large amount of program tax credits come to Dodge County landowners. Participating landowners are eligible for tax credits, which are based on participation method. Landowners that enter into an agreement are eligible for a \$5.00 per acre tax credit, landowners that utilize Farmland Preservation Zoning are eligible for \$7.50 per acre tax credit and landowners that utilize both an agreement and zoning are eligible for a \$10.00 per acre tax credit. In 2017, approximately **97,200** acres were enrolled in the program. **549** landowners claimed tax credits, totaling **\$725,078**. Dodge County is ranked 7th in the state for the total amount of program tax credits received.

Planning and Economic Development Division

Various Planning and Economic Development Activities

There are a variety activities the Planning and Economic Development Administrator conducted throughout Dodge County in 2019, they have included:

- Develop and deliver planning and economic development focused presentations to variety of public/private entities, including senior level business leaders, Dodge County Board of Supervisors, Dodge County Committees and Department Heads, local/state officials, and public/private associations.
- Collaborate with United Way of Dodge County to assist with their goals and identify ways to work jointly on overall community enhancement activities.
- Collaborate with public agencies and business groups to support business focused activities.
- Work with the eight county regional economic development organization Madison Regional Economic Partnership (MadREP) on various activities, served on MadREP Advance Now 2.0 steering committee.
- Maintain a working and on-going relationship with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), be the representative for Dodge County.
- Team up with local officials to determine options to address demographic issues; specifically reviewing opportunities to attract residents to their community.
- Facilitate business to business meetings to coordinate potential options to work together.
- Work with businesses and local officials on methods to address child care, housing, and transportation issues in Dodge County.
- Provide guidance to communities requesting assistance on a variety of community development activities, such as comprehensive plan development/amendments, farmland preservation program participation methods, review/consider various types of development, addressing land use issues/opportunities, ordinance updates/creation, and educational presentations to local government meetings / association meetings.

Parks and Trails Division

ASTICO * DERGE * LEDGE * HARNISCHFEGER * NITSCHKE MOUNDS
WILD GOOSE STATE TRAIL * GLACIAL RIVER TRAIL * GOLD STAR MEMORIAL TRAIL * SNOWMOBILE/ATV TRAILS



Purpose:

To meet the health and recreation needs and demands of the citizens of Dodge County and its visitors and to further the County's environmental and land use goals through efficient and cost effective operation and maintenance of a safe and accessible county-wide system of primarily resource oriented parks, trails and open space areas.

Scope:

The Parks and Trails Division is responsible for planning, development, operation and maintenance of nine current parks and trails facilities, administration of the County Snowmobile and ATV Trail Programs and promotion of regional open space recreational opportunities in Dodge County. The table on the next page identifies the amenities and features of the County Parks and Trails System.

Administration and Operation of the park system is carried out primarily by the Parks Supervisor and Parks Foreman and nine (9) seasonal staff assisted by volunteer camp hosts (when available). Department Director provides project management and oversight on select projects and activities. The Administrative Secretary manages the reservation system and serves as the primary point of public contact and public relations in the office. Many projects, activities and some routine maintenance require the use of Burke Correctional inmates, scout troops, volunteers, contracted labor and County Highway crews to supplement park staff.

The parks remain open year round for hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding and other day use recreation. Limited self-registration camping is available during the winter months pending snow conditions allowing access to the campsites. Minimal winter maintenance is currently undertaken. Plowing services are contracted at Astico, Ledge and Harnischfeger Parks to keep a minimum of roads open to parking areas in order to allow access and use of the park for day use activities. Parking lots along the Wild Goose Trail and Nitschke Mounds Park are able to be maintained with assistance from the Highway Department as time and resources permit.

Seasonal Staff & Assignments:	Attendants	Caretakers	Volunteer Hosts
Astico	Candice Massey	Paul Rettler (PT)	John Massey (2nd year)
Derge	VACANT	Scott Erdmann	Kevin Snyder (1 st year)
Ledge	Angela Bonack	Brady Rouse	Cindy Neitzel (1 st year)
Harnischfeger	Nancy Sage (PT)	John Sevenz	Dan Sage (5 th year)
Wild Goose Trail/Nitschke Mounds/Glacial River Trail	Not Applicable	Joe Schaefer (PT)	Not Applicable

The **volunteer camp host** program continues to be a vital component in the parks operation. The camp hosts assist park visitors with information, campsite registrations, firewood sales, canoe rentals and monitoring of the park when staff are not available. The camp hosts receive a campsite and firewood as their compensation during their stay.

Parks and Trails Division

Amenity / Feature	Harnischfeger	Astico	Ledge	Nitschke Mounds	Derge	Wild Goose State Trail	Glacial River Trail	Gold Star Memorial Trail
Acres	132	100	83	54	13	20 miles	3.5 miles	2.1 miles
Key Feature	Rock River	Crawfish River	Niagara Escarpment	Effigy Mounds	Beaver Dam Lake	Horicon Marsh Community Connectivity	Connects Wild Goose Trail to Watertown	Connects Mayville to Horicon Marsh
Campsites - Electric	6	45	24	No	25	NA	NA	NA
Campsites - Non electric	3	18	21	No	0	NA	NA	NA
Flush Toilets	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Showers	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Vault /Portable Toilets	1 Portable	4	3	1 Portable	1	1 Portable (Hwy 60)	No	No
Dump Station	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	NA	NA	NA
Canoeing/Kayaking	Rentals/Access	Rentals/Access	No	No	Access	NA	NA	NA
Motor Boat Access	No	No	No	No	Yes	NA	NA	NA
Fishing Access	Pier/Shore	Pier/Shore	No	No	Pier/Shore	No	No	NA
Biking	On Roads/Main Trail	On Roads	On Roads	No	On Roads	20 miles	3.5 miles (6.5 miles on road)	2.1
Hiking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	20 miles	3.5 miles	Yes
Horseback Riding	1.2 miles	No	No	No	No	14 miles	No	No
Enclosed Shelter	Clubhouse	No	No	No	Quonset	No	No	No
Open Air Picnic Shelter	2	2	2	1	1	0	No	No
Picnic Area	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Horseshoe Pits	3	1	1	0	0	NA	NA	NA
Volleyball Courts	2	1	1	0	0	NA	NA	NA
Playground	1	2	2	0	2	NA	NA	NA
Disc Golf	9 holes	No	No	No	No	NA	NA	NA
Miniature Golf	9 holes	No	No	No	No	NA	NA	NA
Boardwalk	800 ft / 100 ft	50 ft	30 ft	No	No	No	No	No
X-C Ski/ Snowshoe Access (Not groomed)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
ATV Trail (Winter)	No	No	No	No	NO	20 miles	No	No
Snowmobile Trail	321.9 miles of County trails, mostly located over private property through easements							

Vehicle and Trail Counts 2019

Entrance data is now being collected in the parks through the use of road counters. Road counters have been installed at Harnischfeger (2013), Ledge (2014), Astico (2015) and Derge (2016). The table below shows monthly and summary data for the months of May through October. Traffic counters need to be removed for the winter, so actual year round traffic count data is not possible at this point. Total visitation for 2019 is incomplete due to some operational issues with the counters at Harnischfeger and Ledge Parks. Both Derge and Astico Parks received increased vehicle counts and estimated visitors (average of two people per vehicle) from May through October over the 2018 totals.

Parks and Trails Division

PARK ENTRANCE COUNTS - 2019

MONTH	TOTAL VEHICLE COUNTS - 2019				TOTAL VEHICLES	ESTIMATED VISITORS
	ASTICO	LEDGE	HARN	DERGE		
MAY	2,291	*	*	813	3,104	6,208
JUNE	2,720	*	1,402	949	5,071	10,142
JULY	2,330	*	2,730	1,457	6,517	13,034
AUG	2,347	*	*	1,105	3,452	6,904
SEPT	2,077	*	*	514	2,591	5,182
OCT	1,735	*	*	500	2,235	4,470
TOTALS	13,500	0	4,132	5,338	22,970	45,940

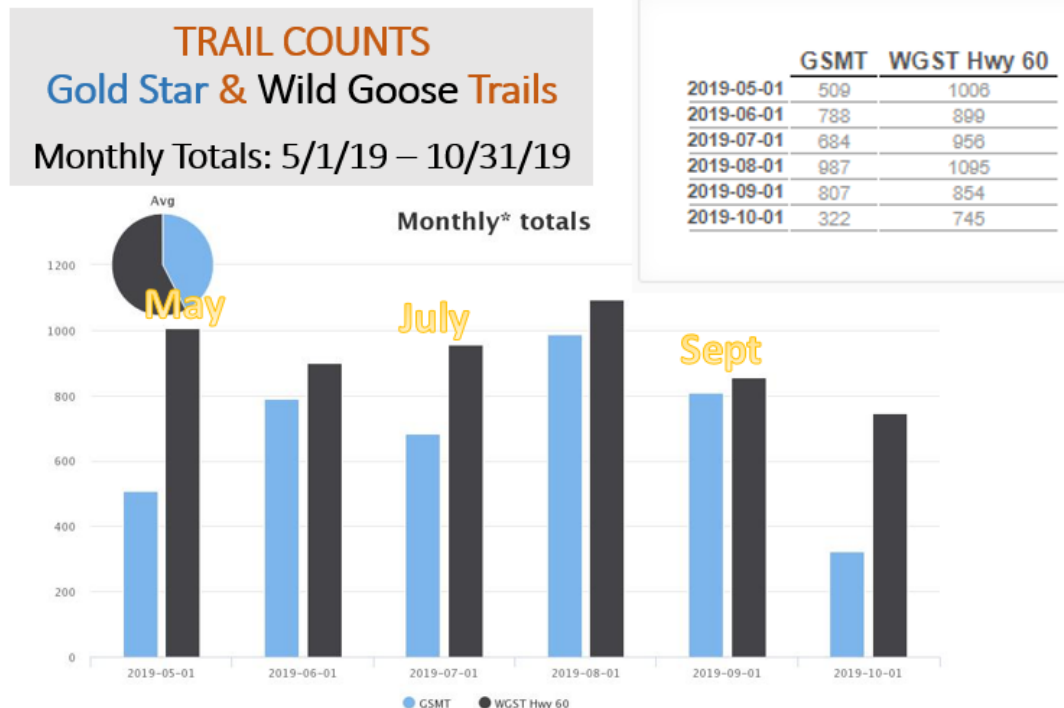
Average/Day (2019)	75	N/A	54	29
Average/Day (2018)	79	88	67	24

*Counter Not Operational

Estimated Number Visitors - 2019	27,000	N/A	8,264 (2 months)	10,676
Estimated Number Visitors - 2018	25,786	34,104	19,840	8,682

A trail counter has been installed at various points on the Wild Goose Trail over the past several years with limited results. New counters were installed on the Wild Goose Trail and the new Gold Star Memorial Trail. Data counts from individual locations from May1 – October 31 are shown below. Annual trail use on the Wild Goose Trail continues to be estimated at 35,000 – 40,000 mostly based on data from comparable trails. As more counters are added and more data counts are developed at various locations, we will be able to improve our assumptions and overall user estimate.

TRAIL COUNTS – 2019



Parks and Trails Division

Campsite Rentals

A variety of campsite types are available throughout the Dodge County Parks system. Standard electric and non-electric sites with camping pads, picnic tables and fire rings are most common and available at Astico, Derge, Ledge and Harnischfeger Parks. A group site is also available at Harnischfeger and Astico Parks. The group sites primarily serve scout campouts, but are also popular for large family gatherings and organization outings.

The campsites available for rentals are:

Astico – 45 electric, 17 non-electric, 1 group

Ledge – 24 electric, 21 non-electric, 0 group

Derge – 25 electric, 0 non-electric, 0 group

Harnischfeger – 6 electric, 3 non-electric, 1 group

Campsite Rentals: 2015-2019 (Total Nights)					
Park	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Astico	1,701	2,678	2848	2585	2750
Derge	1,310	1,334	1386	1196	1662
Ledge	2,787	2,714	2772	2607	2567
Harnischfeger	548	695	585	601	611
TOTALS	6,346	7,421	7591	6,989	7590

In 2019, camping fees remained at \$24 for electric sites and \$20 for sites without electric. Overall camping revenues increased 16% over 2018 camping revenues and was our highest total campsite rental revenue ever. While all parks saw a revenue increase, Derge Park experienced the greatest increase at 50%.

Typically about 65% - 70% of the overnight campsite rentals in the parks are by visitors from outside of the Dodge County area. County residents, generally within a 15-25 minute drive of a park, are the primary users of the day use facilities such as the trails, fishing areas, playgrounds and picnic areas.

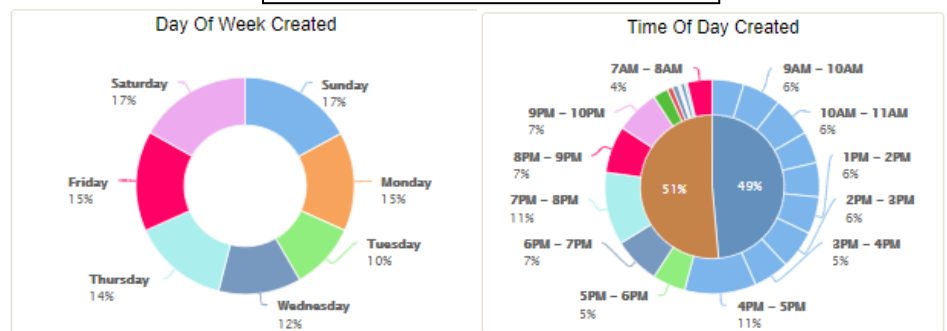
Camping Revenue History – By Park

Park	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	%Change
Astico	\$39,279	\$56,020	\$67,709	\$61,984	\$65,921	6%
Derge	\$26,407	\$28,607	\$32,174	\$27,811	\$41,791	50%
Ledge	\$54,583	\$56,010	\$60,545	\$58,150	\$64,747	11%
Harnischfeger	\$12,810	\$15,651	\$14,402	\$16,839	\$18,580	10%
TOTALS	\$133,079	\$156,288	\$174,830	\$164,784	\$191,039	16%

Online Reservation System

A new reservation system was first implemented mid-year 2018 to better meet the needs of our park customers by providing 24/7, real time - online camping and shelter reservations. About 34% of reservations were made on the weekends and roughly 51% were made outside of regular office hours.

Day and Time of Reservations Made

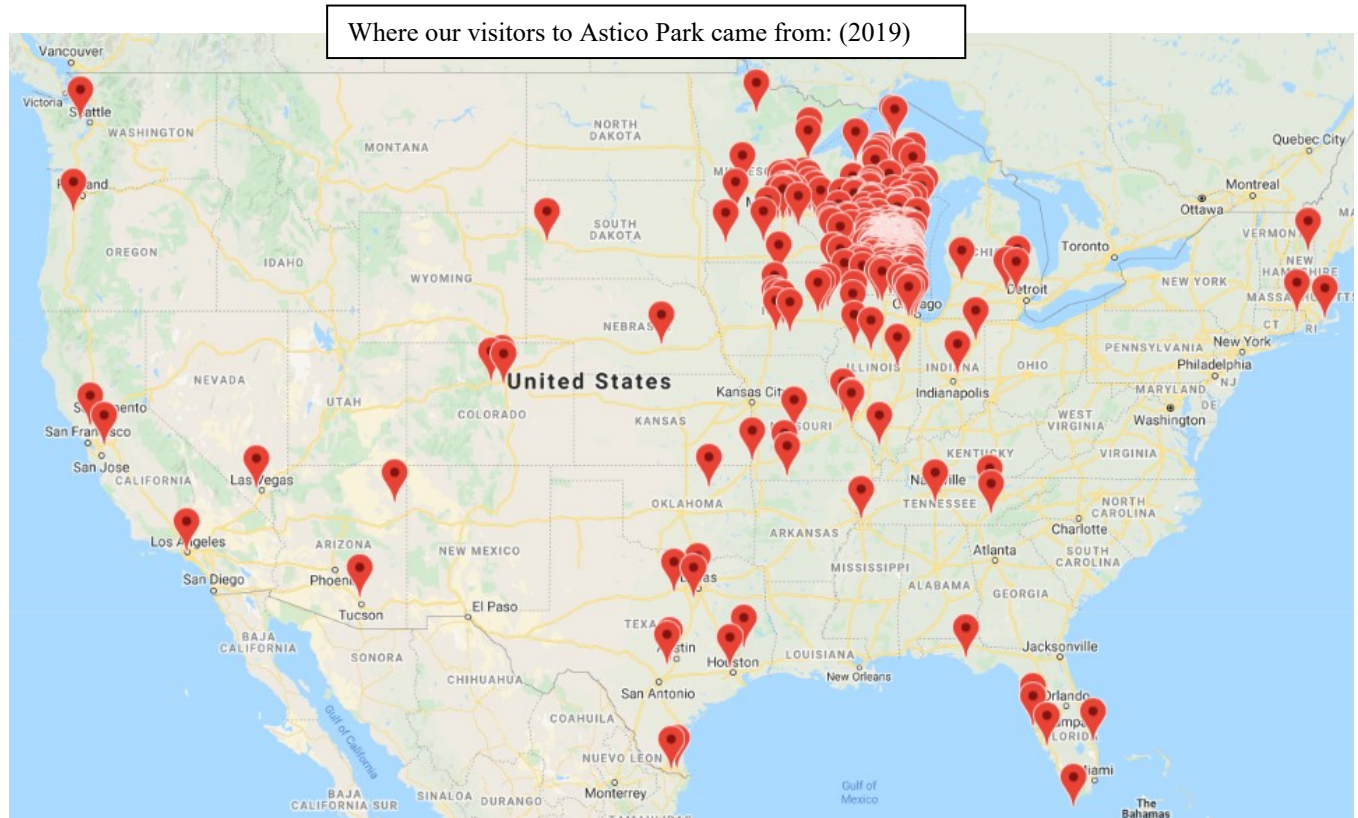


The first full calendar year of operation under the new system was in 2019. A total of 1570 reservations (51% of 2019 reservations) were made online before year end.

Park	Online Reservations Campsites & Shelters January-December 2019
Astico	537
Derge	242
Ledge	651
Harnischfeger	140

Parks and Trails Division

Visitors to our parks come from all over the Country. The map below identifies locations of where our visitors to Astico Park in 2019, came from.



Parks and Trails Division

Firewood

Firewood continues to be a major task for the park staff, both in keeping up with sales and supplies. A firewood ban was first instituted in early 2008 in an effort to slow the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) into Dodge County. The movement of firewood is the primary means of spreading EAB. In 2013, Dodge County's first EAB find was discovered (Watertown) leading to Dodge County being added to the quarantine list for moving firewood. After one EAB find in Dodge County in each of the years 2013-2016, there was a jump to four finds in 2017 and more in 2019. By the end of 2019, ten towns and the largest communities in Dodge County have had EAB identified within their borders. The wave of widespread die off of ash trees is moving through southeastern Wisconsin and is starting to take effect in Dodge County. Efforts have been taken by parks staff to inventory and remove ash trees incrementally before the mass die off hits at one time. Replanting of various tree species is also being stepped up.

The firewood ban in the County Parks is anticipated to continue as long as it is deemed necessary to protect the Dodge County ash tree resource. The firewood ban in the Dodge County Parks will likely be relaxed within the next year or two when the ban is determined to no longer be effective or needed. Approximately 32,500 pieces of firewood were cut, split and sold in the parks in 2019 resulting in over \$19,235 net firewood revenues (after sales tax removal), a slight increase over 2018. All the firewood sold was generated from the parks utilizing dead and downed wood from throughout the park system as well as removal of undesirable and hazard trees. Burke Correctional inmates assisted park staff with firewood cutting, splitting and stacking. Firewood fees remained at \$5 per bundle in 2019 and were sold by park staff, volunteer camp hosts and on a self-service basis.

Firewood Revenue History

Park	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Astico	\$6,593	\$7,913	\$10,402	\$7,397	\$7,334
Derge	\$2,195	\$1,849	\$1,472	\$1,079	\$1,734
Ledge	\$10,313	\$9,079	\$8,219	\$7,542	\$8,449
Harnischfeger	\$2,005	\$1,484	\$1,639	\$2,409	\$1,718
TOTAL	\$21,106	\$20,325	\$21,732	\$18,427	\$19,235



Parks and Trails Division

Shelter and Clubhouse Rentals

The shelters and clubhouse rentals available in the County Parks provide a valuable service to Dodge County residents and visitors. The buildings are used for scout activities, organization outings, company picnics and family parties; such as reunions, graduations, weddings, birthdays and more. Additionally, the clubhouse serves as the hub of activities for the annual Fallfest (and former Winterfest) public fundraising event at Harnischfeger Park held by Friends of Dodge County Parks, Inc.

The buildings available for rentals are:

Astico Park - 2 open shelters (lost 1 shelter in the 2015 windstorm)

Ledge Park – 2 open shelters

Derge Park – 1 open shelter and the Quonset shelter

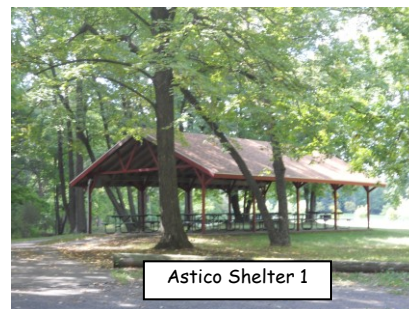
Harnischfeger Park – 2 open shelters and the clubhouse

Nitschke Mounds Park contains a large shelter that functions primarily for park programming and educational functions and is not currently available for rental.

Overall, a slight revenue increase was experienced for clubhouse revenues over 2018 and a slight overall decrease for shelter revenues. A total of 49 days (52 days in 2018) for clubhouse rentals took place in 2019 with fees ranging from \$70 to \$270 based on the number of people using the building. The clubhouse was available for rentals from late February to mid-November.

Net Shelter Revenue History – By Park

Park	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Astico	\$420	\$569	\$473	\$711	\$783
Derge	\$324	\$332	\$285	\$605	\$285
Ledge	\$1,426	\$1,171	\$900	\$1,090	\$1,038
Harn Shelters	\$2,398	\$3,013	\$2,980	\$1,786	\$2,066
TOTALS	\$4,568	\$5,085	\$4,638	\$4,192	\$4,172
Harn Clubhouse	\$6,562	\$6,453	\$7,231	\$5,795	\$5,990



Parks and Trails Division

Watercraft Rentals

Watercraft rentals are operated at Astico and Harnischfeger Parks by staff and the volunteer camp hosts. A fleet of canoes and kayaks are available. Due to lack of interest and maintenance issues, the pedal boats inventory and rentals are being phased out. Rental revenues increased in 2019 at both parks. Some of the decrease can be attributed to the weather and high water situations causing safety concerns and restricting use. Although the number of paddlers seems to be increasing each year, more paddlers are bringing their own canoes and kayaks instead of renting.

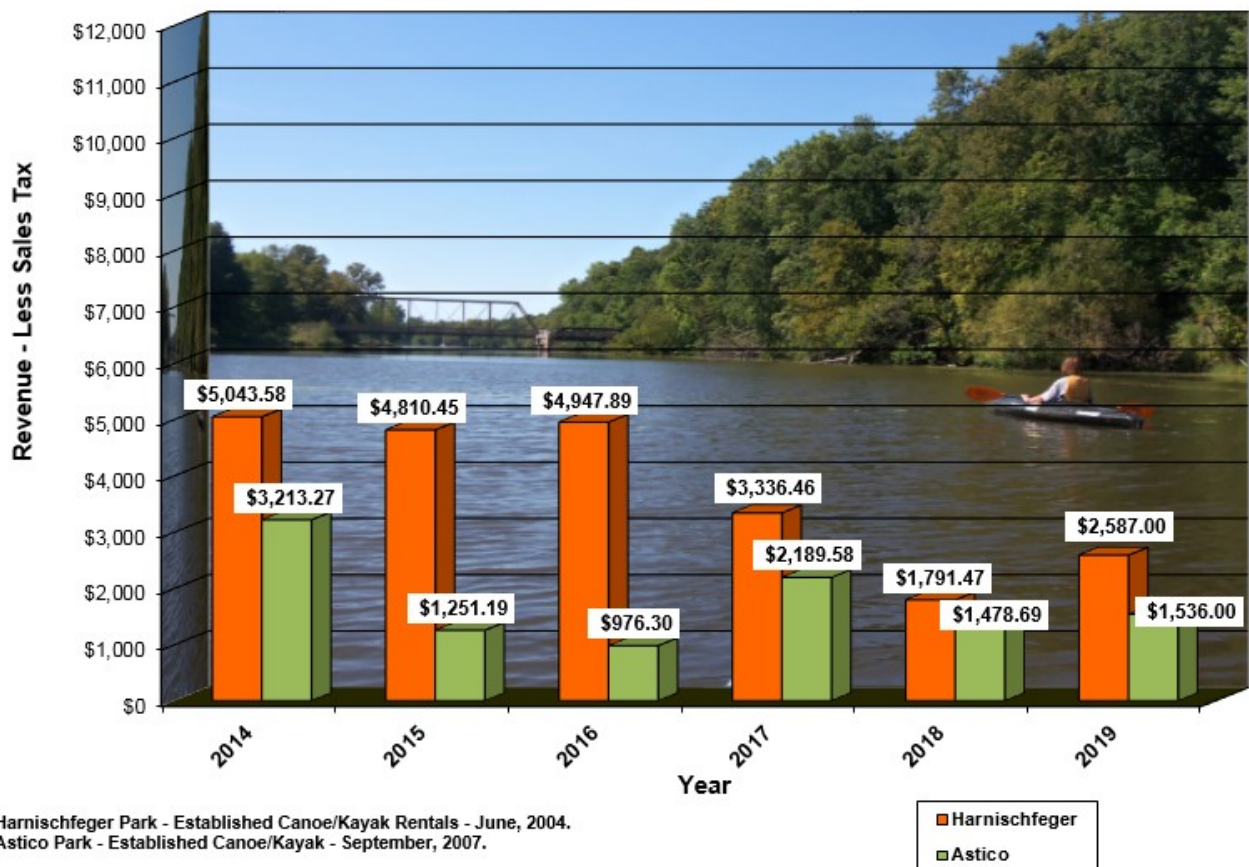


Watercraft available for rentals were:

Harnischfeger Park: 8 canoes, 8 kayaks (2, 2-person units)

Astico Park: 4 canoes, 4 kayaks (1, 2-person unit)

Canoe/Kayak Rental Revenue (Less Sales Tax)



Parks and Trails Division

2019 Dodge County Parks and Trails Projects



The **Gold Star Memorial Trail** Phases 1 & 4 were completed and had their Grand Opening/Dedication take place in 2019. The June 1st National Trails Day Dedication attracted a large crowd including, Gold Star Families from around the State, donors, elected officials, Military officials, volunteers, project officials and many others.

Ribbon Cutting by Gold Star Families and Project Officials with Local and State Dignitaries



Nitschke Mounds: A volunteer Mounds Care group headed by Kurt Sampson of the Dodge County Historical Society provided many hours of labor clearing vegetation and debris from the northernmost mounds. Some of the mounds were seeded with no mow grass to help restrict unwanted vegetation and allow better visibility of the mounds.

Demo of old Homestead at Harnischfeger Park: The old farmhouse at north end of the park was removed by Highway Department crews. The bricks were scraped off and salvaged for reuse or sale before bringing down and cleaning up the building debris. The site will be repurposed for interpretive/educational uses and possibly some type of shelter.



County Snowmobile Trail System **321.9 miles**
County ATV Trail (Winter Only) **20 miles**

Snowmobile and ATV program grants are received from the State DNR and distributed as needed to operate, maintain, rehabilitate and develop the trail systems. Dodge County receives \$300 per mile for the snowmobile trails and \$100 per mile for the ATV trail. Funding for the programs comes from snowmobile and ATV registration fees, trail pass fees and gas tax.



For the 2018-2019 season:

- Received \$96,570 snowmobile trail grant for maintenance and grooming of snowmobile trail system (\$3,773 for program administration and insurance).
- Received \$2,000 ATV trail grant for maintenance of ATV trail on the Wild Goose State Trail (\$341 for program administration and insurance).
- Maintained trail reports on hotline, email, Facebook, website and state snow conditions website to keep local media, law enforcement, the public and others informed of trail status changes.
- The snowmobile trails were open an average of 27 days for the 5 zones during the 2018-19 season compared with 4 days during the 2017-18 season. The ATV trail was open 60 days during the 2018-19 season compared with 37 days during the 2017-18 season.

Parks and Trails Division

The Friends of Dodge County Parks

The Friends of Dodge County Parks is a 501c3 non-profit organization working closely with the Parks and Trails division to encourage and assist Dodge County in providing and upgrading park and recreation facilities to meet the needs and demands of County's residents and visitors into the future. The Friends group also provides recommendations for new or updated park and recreational facilities or initiatives. The most visible aspect of the Friends group is in fundraising to provide a source of funds to the County to supplement public funds for park projects. The typical sources of funds for the group comes from the annual Fallfest event at Harnischfeger Park as well as memberships and general donations. The Friends group has several designated funds for specific parks (and projects) allowing donors to contribute to parks or projects that especially appeal to them.

Over \$6,000 was raised by Fallfest for Harnischfeger Park. Total revenues decreased in 2019. Total expenditures in 2019 dropped sharply.

A permanent **Endowment Fund** with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin was created in 2010 to provide perpetual funding support for the Friends group mission. Up to 5% of the fund value is available annually for pay out to

FRIENDS OF DODGE COUNTY PARKS, INC. YEAR END FINANCIALS		
FUND ACCOUNTS	2018	2019
Administrative Fund	1,178	169
Astico Fund	1,819	1,926
Derge Fund	5,550	6,082
Ledge Fund	659	662
Wild Goose Trail Fund	2,344	3,844
Nitschke Mounds Fund	3,325	3,830
Harnischfeger Fund	39,844	48,368
Gold Star Mem. Trail Fund	20,320	45,831
Future Park Fund	245	245
Endowment Fund – Temp	110	130
Undesignated General Fund	10,953	7,516
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$86,347	\$118,602
Total Revenues	82,043	50,988
Total Expenses	452,965	18,223
Transfer to Endowment	865	510
NET REVENUE	-\$371,787	\$32,255
Endowment Fund Balance as of December 31	\$23,498	\$28,533

the Friends group for use as they deem necessary. The goal is to increase the Endowment Fund value to a level that provides significant annual funding on a perpetual basis. **The Endowment Fund value increased during 2019 to a year end value of \$28,533**

The group launched their **Facebook** page in 2012 to provide park project and event updates and to solicit feedback and information exchange. Parks staff serve as the primary administrators of the page in coordination with the County Parks Facebook Page.

The Officers and Board of Directors of the organization promote and oversee membership, fundraising and organizational operations which includes directing the project funding where requested and needed. The Board hopes to eventually form separate committees to focus on each individual park. To date only Harnischfeger Park and the Gold Star Trail have active fundraising committees. The Harnischfeger committee coordinates the Fallfest fundraising event and volunteer work days, as well as provides input on new developments and improvements at the park. The Gold Star Trail committee coordinates promotions and fundraising campaigns.

Park staff attend the meetings of the Friends of Dodge County Parks Board of Directors serving as advisor and providing administrative assistance, as well as making funding requests and recommendations for park projects. Input on projects and park needs are also sought from the Board.